

SERIES TITLE: Servant King

PART TWO: AMAZING

TEXT: MARK 1:21-2:12

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move. Using the word “immediately” over 40 times, he shows Jesus ministering. Obedient to the Father’s will, Jesus preaches the good news, heals the sick, teaches his followers, and performs miracles. All the while, he heads toward his sacrificial death on the cross. Mark 10:45 sums up his mission: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark’s gospel reveals Jesus to be the perfect Servant and the perfect Sacrifice. Those who receive him as the good news are empowered to serve in his name.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

In these verses, we see Jesus on the move throughout Galilee, performing signs and wonders as he goes. In every case, the people are amazed, although they do not understand the significance of what they are seeing. The passage concludes with Jesus introducing the most amazing miracle of all.

FOCUS QUESTION

Can you give an example of something that was described as “amazing” but didn’t live up to that word?

EXAMINATION

1:21-28 What was it about Jesus’ teaching that amazed those who heard it?

1:29-34 Since Jesus had the power to cast demons, why did he forbid them from speaking?

1:35-39 Since Jesus is God in human flesh, to whom did he pray?

Why did Jesus avoid the crowd that was looking for him and go somewhere else? What does he say is the purpose of his coming?

1:40-45 What impresses you about Jesus’ compassion for the leper?

2:1-12 How do the four friends demonstrate faith?

Why does Jesus challenge the thoughts of the teachers?

What is the only reason Jesus gives for healing the paralytic?

EXPLORATION

- Psalm 103:1-12
- Isaiah 43:1-13, 25
- Daniel 7:13-14
- Matthew 9:1-8
- Ephesians 1:3-13

APPLICATION

- How can popularity get in the way of true spirituality?
- What is the difference between attracting people to hear the gospel and attracting people with the gospel?
- Jesus took time to be alone and pray. What practical ways can you do the same, without making it a rule, ritual, or legalistic requirement?
- What kinds of spectacular spiritual things can distract us from Jesus?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What are key truths that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?